S1527-3

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C.

# AREA LABOR SUMMARY

THE D.C. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

DATA FOR DECEMBER 1990 FEBRUARY 1991

## Area Unemployment Hits 4 Percent in December

### Area Job Losses Slow

## Labor Force

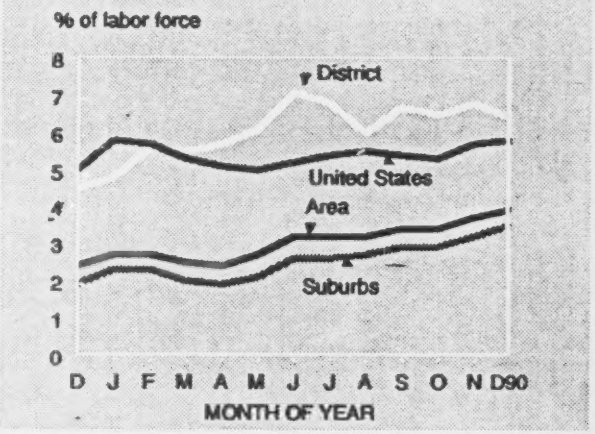
Increased unemployment among suburbanites in December pushed the Area's unemployment rate up to 4.0 percent of the labor force. This represents the first time that the Area's rate has been 4 percent or above since January 1985 when the rate was 4.2 percent. The unemployment rate among Washington suburbanites climbed from 3.3 percent in November to 3.6 percent in December. The District's monthly movement was contrary to the Area's and the suburbs'. The District's rate declined from 6.9 percent in November to 6.5 percent in December.

The seasonally unadjusted rate for all American workers in December was 5.9 percent, up from 5.8 percent in November and up from 5.1 percent in December 1989. December marked the eleventh consecutive month that the District's rate has been above that for the nation.

## *The District*

The basic downward movement of the District's rate between November and December was principally seasonal and probably does not reflect any fundamental change in recent trends.

**Unemployment Rates**
**December 1989 - December 1990**




Over the past thirteen years the November-to-December rate dropped in 10 of the years and rose in only three. Reflecting the seasonal pattern this year, the District's labor force netted 1,600 new workers, while the increase in employment was even larger at 2,600. Thus, 1,000 residents were drawn from the unemployment rolls to fill the job increases. These changes forced the rate to drop four-tenths of a percent.

The effects of the recent downturn in the Area's economy are, however, clearly visible in the over-the-year comparisons. Since Decem-

*Continued on page 3*

Government of the District of Columbia
Sharon Pratt Dixon
Mayor

Department of Employment Serv
Maria Borrero
Acting Director

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METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C.

# AREA LABOR SUMMARY

THE D.C. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

DATA FOR DECEMBER 1990 FEBRUARY 1991

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Inquiries and requests for labor market information may be obtained by writing to the above address, or by calling (202) 639-1641 or 639-1642.

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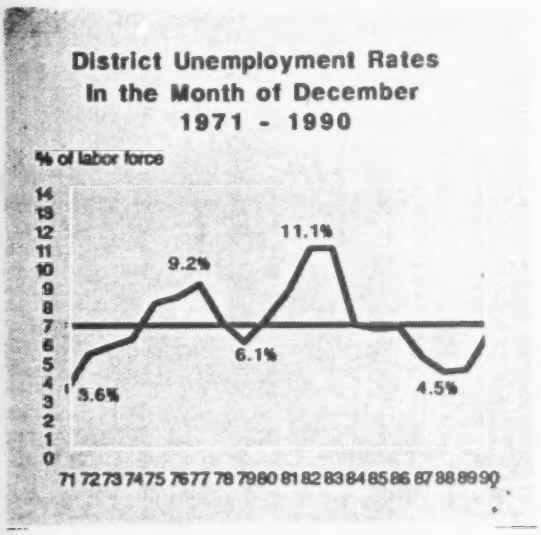
ber 1989, the number of employed residents declined by 19,400 or a significant 6.6 percent. This loss of employment was offset by a somewhat smaller decline of 14,400 people or 4.7 percent in the size of the labor force. This indicates that some of the workers losing jobs simply may have withdrawn from active participation in the job market. Since the payroll decline was larger than the labor force decline, the over-the-year jobless rolls increased by 5,000, a rise of 35 percent in the number of jobless workers. As a result, the District's over-the-year unemployment rate rose a significant 1.9 percentage points. A statistical sign of the slump that has occurred in the local economy.




# The Suburbs & The Area

In December, suburban employment declined by 14,800. The job loss led to a 10,700 person decrease in the work force and a 4,100 person increase in the jobless pool. The over-the-year pattern was similar. Between December 1989 and December 1990, the number of suburbanites with jobs contracted by 34,300. Only 5,300 persons left the labor force, thus, the jobless pool expanded significantly by 29,000 jobless workers. **This represents a 75 percent increase in the number of unemployed suburbanites.** As a result, the suburban unemployment rate was up over the year by 1.6 percentage points.

As a result of the significant changes during the past year in the District and suburban labor forces, the Area's job statistics are also significantly different than they were in December a year ago. The labor force is now smaller, fewer people have jobs and the unemployment rolls have expanded. In December, there were 87,000 Area workers unemployed. This is 34,000 more than a year earlier and represents a 64 percent expansion in Area joblessness.

It is interesting to note that for the first time in years, the unemployment rate in one of the suburban counties, Frederick, is higher than the rate in the District.

Seventy-three percent of the decline in the Area's labor force has occurred among District residents, probably reflecting an increase in labor market discouragement as residents are unable to quickly find employment. It may also reflect the relocation of some residents to the suburbs. On the other hand, 64 percent of the yearly decline in Area residents with jobs has

Continued on page 4

**Unemployment Rates in the Washington, D.C., MSA by City and County**

| | Dec.a/ 1990 | Nov.b/ 1990 | Dec.b/ 1989 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Frederick County | 6.6 | 5.9 | 2.6 |
| **2. District of Columbia** | **6.5** | **6.9** | **4.6** |
| 3. Calvert County | 6.0 | 5.2 | 2.9 |
| 4. Stafford County | 4.8 | 4.3 | 2.1 |
| 5. Manassas City | 4.7 | 4.0 | 1.5 |
| 6. Prince Georges Cty. | 4.6 | 4.4 | 2.7 |
| 7. Charles County | 4.3 | 4.0 | 2.1 |
| 8. Prince William Cty. | 3.8 | 3.3 | 1.9 |
| 9. Alexandria City | 3.8 | 3.4 | 2.2 |
| 10. Manassas Park City | 3.8 | 2.9 | 1.2 |
| 11. Montgomery County | 3.3 | 3.1 | 1.9 |
| 12. Arlington County | 2.8 | 2.6 | 1.9 |
| 13. Fairfax County | 2.5 | 2.3 | 1.6 |
| 14. Loudoun County | 2.5 | 2.3 | 1.5 |
| 15. Falls Church City | 2.2 | 2.0 | 1.4 |
| 16. Fairfax City | 2.0 | 1.8 | 1.4 |

a/ Preliminary. b/ Revised.
SOURCE: The Department of Employment Services, the Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development and the Virginia Employment Commission.

Continued from page 3

occurred among persons living in the suburbs. This is also the case for people in the Area's expanded unemployment pool, where 85 percent of the over-the-year increase was represented by new unemployed suburbanites. As a result, nearly 80 percent of the Area's unemployed now live in the suburbs, up from 73 percent in December 1989. Clearly, suburbanites are experiencing the pains of unemployment in this current business cycle.

## Employment Status for the Civilian Population District of Columbia, Suburban Ring, and the Washington, D.C. MSA December 1990[a/]

| | Dec.[b/] 1990 | Nov.[c/] 1990 | Dec.[d/] 1989 | Nov.[d/] 1989 | Net Change From Nov. 1990 | Net Change From Dec. 1989 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Washington, D.C.** | | | | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 294,900 | 293,300 | 309,300 | 311,500 | 1,600 | -14,400 |
| Total Employed | 275,700 | 273,100 | 295,100 | 296,800 | 2,600 | -19,400 |
| Total Unemployed | 19,200 | 20,200 | 14,200 | 14,700 | -1,000 | 5,000 |
| Unemployment Rates[e/] | 6.5 | 6.9 | 4.6 | 4.7 | -0.4 | 1.9 |
| **Suburban Ring** | | | | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 1,897,400 | 1,908,100 | 1,902,700 | 1,903,900 | -10,700 | -5,300 |
| Total Employed | 1,829,600 | 1,844,400 | 1,863,900 | 1,864,700 | -14,800 | -34,300 |
| Total Unemployed | 67,800 | 63,700 | 38,800 | 39,200 | 4,100 | 29,000 |
| Unemployment Rate[e/] | 3.6 | 3.3 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 0.3 | 1.6 |
| **Washington, D.C. MSA** | | | | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 2,192,300 | 2,201,400 | 2,212,000 | 2,215,400 | -9,100 | -19,700 |
| Total Employed | 2,105,300 | 2,117,500 | 2,159,000 | 2,161,500 | -12,200 | -53,700 |
| Total Unemployed | 87,000 | 83,900 | 53,000 | 53,900 | 3,100 | 34,000 |
| Unemployment Rate[e/] | 4.0 | 3.8 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 0.2 | 1.6 |

a/ Data subject to annual benchmark revisions. Detail may not add to the totals due to independent rounding. b/ Preliminary. c/ Revised. d/ Data reflects benchmark revisions. e/ Seasonally unadjusted.

Estimated Labor Force and Employment for the Washington Metropolitan Area includes the District of Columbia, the Virginia Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park; the Virginia Counties of Fairfax, Arlington, Prince William, Loudoun, and Stafford; and the Maryland Counties of Montgomery, Prince Georges, Charles, Frederick, and Calvert.

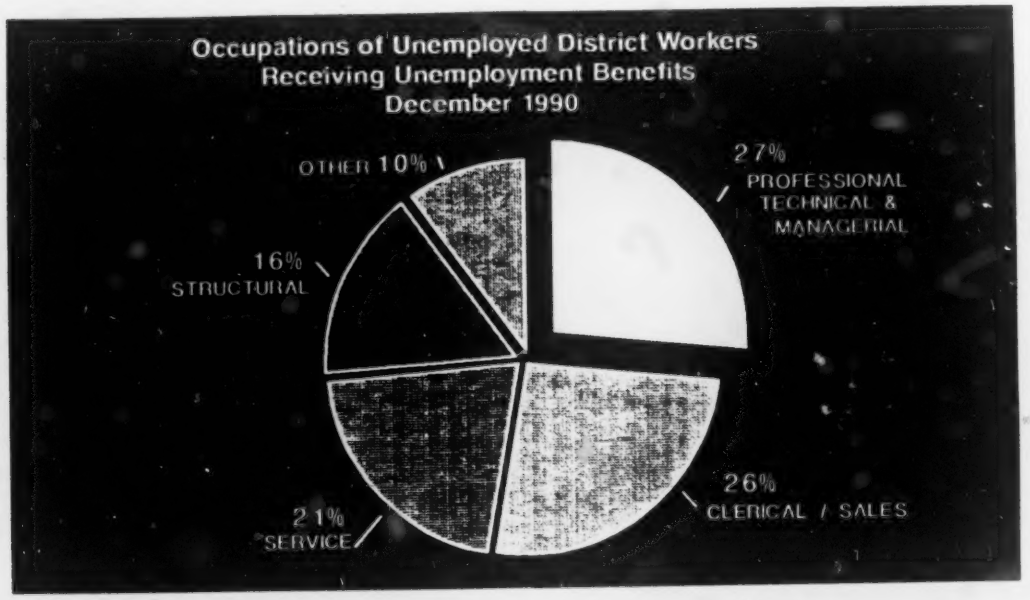
## Labor Force Distribution Washington Metropolitan Area December 1990 & December 1989 (percent)

| | Labor Force | Employed | Unemployed |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | **December 1990** | |
| **Area** | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| **District** | 13.5 | 13.1 | 22.1 |
| **Suburbs** | 86.5 | 86.9 | 77.9 |
| | | **December 1989** | |
| **Area** | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| **District** | 14.0 | 13.7 | 26.8 |
| **Suburbs** | 86.0 | 86.3 | 73.2 |

## Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

The number of individuals receiving unemployment insurance (UI) benefits in the District of Columbia totaled 12,643 in December. In December 1990, 53 percent of all UI claimants were males. Occupationally, professional, technical and managerial workers accounted for 27 percent of the total workers. Clerical and Sales workers followed with 26 percent. Service workers were third with 21 percent and structural workers 16 percent, miscellaneous workers 5 percent, machine workers 1 percent and the remaining 4 percent distributed between bench workers, processing workers and farming, fishery, forestry and related occupational workers.

The median duration of the current spell of insured unemployment was 9.6 weeks for all claimants in December. Over the month, the duration for males and females remained unchanged at 9.2 weeks. and 10.0 weeks, respectively. In December 1989, the average duration was 8.2 weeks for males and 9.3 for females.




# Job Growth

## *The District*

The number of jobs in the District increased by 3,700 for a gain of 0.5 percent between November and December. The private sector was responsible for slightly more than half the growth with a primarily seasonal gain in Services (2,100 jobs).

The public sector grew by 1,800 jobs with seasonal gains in both Federal Government (1,300 jobs) and State and Local Government (500 jobs).

Over the year (December 1989 to December 1990), the number of District jobs declined 0.8 percent for a loss of 5,300 jobs. **The private sector decreased at a rate of 1.0 percent for a loss of 4,300 jobs.** The primary job loser, Trade, accounted for 91 percent of the private sector decrease with a loss of 3,900 jobs. The substantial decline in Trade continues to reflect both a lower level of seasonal hiring this year and the recent closing of several important retail establishments. Significant private sector losses also occurred in Transportation, Communications and Public Utilities (800 jobs) and Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (700 jobs).

The public sector declined by 1,000 jobs with a loss in Federal Government (2,200 jobs) partially offset by a gain in State and Local Government (1,200 jobs).

Continued on page 6

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Continued from page 5

# The Suburbs

The number of suburban jobs decreased by less than 0.1 percent for a loss of 100 jobs between November and December. The private sector was responsible for the decline with seasonal gains in Trade (4,900 jobs) offset by losses in Construction (3,300 jobs) and Services (2,600 jobs). The Maryland suburbs accounted for 55 percent of the Trade growth and 58 percent of the decline in Services, while the Virginia suburbs were responsible for 61 percent of the loss in Construction.

The public sector increased by 900 jobs with increases in both Federal Government (600 jobs) and State and Local Government (300 jobs). The Virginia suburbs accounted for all of the growth in the public sector.

Over the year (December 1989 to December 1990), suburban jobs declined at a rate of 0.6 percent for a loss of 9,700 jobs. **The Maryland suburbs grew at a rate of 0.3 percent, while the Virginia suburbs decreased at a rate of 1.5 percent.**

**The private sector, declining at a rate of 1.4 percent, accounted for the loss in suburban jobs with growth in the service-producing sector (1,000 jobs) offset by a decline in the goods-producing sector (18,800 jobs).** Job losses were primarily concentrated in Construction (15,600 jobs) and Manufacturing (3,100 jobs), while the only job gains occurred in Transportation, Communications and Public Utilities (1,800 jobs) and Services (800 jobs). Seventy-nine percent of the Construction loss occurred in the Virginia suburbs, while the Maryland suburbs accounted for half of the loss in Manufacturing and 58 percent of the growth in the latter two industries. The Maryland suburbs were also responsible for all of the decline in Trade (900 jobs).

The public sector grew at a rate of 2.6 percent with growth in State and Local Government (10,500 jobs) partially offset by a loss in Federal Government (2,400 jobs). Eighty percent of the growth in government occurred in the Maryland suburbs.

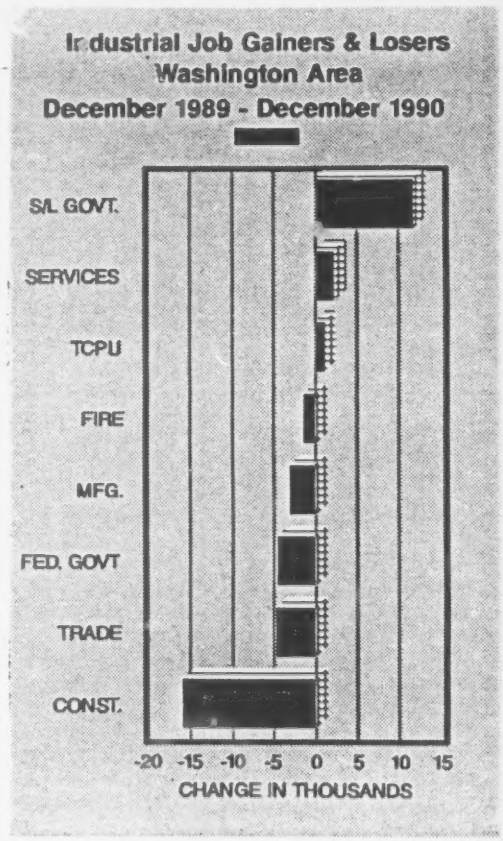
# The Area

The Washington Metropolitan Area gained 3,500 jobs between November and December for an increase of 0.2 percent. The public sector was responsible for the growth with gains in both Federal Government (1,900 jobs) and State and Local Government (800 jobs).

The private sector increased by 800 jobs with a seasonal gain in Trade (5,100 jobs) partially offset by losses primarily concentrated in Construction (3,600 jobs).

Over the year (December 1989 to December 1990), the Area declined at a rate of 0.7 percent for a loss of 15,000 jobs. The private sector, declining at a rate of 1.3 percent for a loss of 22,100 jobs, was responsible for the Area job loss. Job losses were concentrated in Construction (15,900 jobs),

Continued on page 7



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Trade (4,800 jobs), Manufacturing (3,100 jobs) and Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (1,400 jobs), while job growth occurred in Services (2,200 jobs) and Transportation, Communications, and Public Utilities (1,000 jobs).

The public sector grew at a rate of 1.2 percent with gains in State and Local Government (11,700 jobs) partially offset by a loss in Federal Government (4,600 jobs).

**Wage and Salary Employment by Industry and Place of Work**[a/]
(in thousands)

| | District of Columbia | | | Metropolitan Area | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **INDUSTRY** | Dec.[b/] 1990 | Nov.[c/] 1990 | Dec.[d/] 1989 | Dec.[b/] 1990 | Nov.[c/] 1990 | Dec.[d/] 1989 |
| **TOTAL** | **687.8** | **684.1** | **693.1** | **2,254.5** | **2,251.0** | **2,269.5** |
| **Total Private Sector** | **410.4** | **408.5** | **414.7** | **1,654.3** | **1,653.5** | **1,676.4** |
| **Total Government** | **277.4** | **275.6** | **278.4** | **600.2** | **597.5** | **593.1** |
| **Total Goods Producing** | **30.1** | **30.4** | **30.4** | **217.1** | **221.0** | **236.2** |
| **Manufacturing** | **16.1** | **16.1** | **16.1** | **86.7** | **86.9** | **89.8** |
| Total Durables | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 41.0 | 41.1 | 43.5 |
| Stone, Clay, Glass Products | N/A | N/A | N/A | 2.9 | 3.0 | 3.3 |
| Electronic & Electric Equip. | N/A | N/A | N/A | 17.0 | 16.9 | 17.3 |
| All Other Durable | N/A | N/A | N/A | 21.1 | 21.2 | 22.9 |
| Total Non-Durable | 13.7 | 13.7 | 13.7 | 45.7 | 45.8 | 46.3 |
| Food & Kindred Products | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.8 |
| Printing & Publishing | 13.0 | 13.0 | 13.0 | 35.0 | 35.3 | 35.6 |
| All Other Non-Durable | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 6.0 | 5.8 | 5.9 |
| **Mining** | **0.1** | **0.1** | **0.1** | **1.0** | **1.1** | **1.1** |
| **Construction** | **13.9** | **14.2** | **14.2** | **129.4** | **133.0** | **145.3** |
| **Total Service Producing** | **657.7** | **653.7** | **662.7** | **2037.4** | **2030.0** | **2033.3** |
| **Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities** | **24.2** | **24.4** | **25.0** | **113.6** | **113.5** | **112.6** |
| All Transportation | 9.4 | 9.5 | 9.8 | 59.4 | 59.1 | 57.5 |
| Railroads | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 5.3 | 5.3 | 5.3 |
| Transportation ex. Railroad | 5.2 | 5.3 | 5.7 | 54.1 | 53.8 | 52.2 |
| Communications & Public Utilities | 14.8 | 14.9 | 15.2 | 54.2 | 54.4 | 55.1 |
| **Trade** | **62.5** | **62.3** | **66.4** | **451.5** | **446.4** | **456.3** |
| Wholesale | 8.2 | 8.1 | 8.2 | 78.6 | 78.1 | 78.2 |
| Retail | 54.3 | 54.2 | 58.2 | 372.9 | 368.3 | 378.1 |
| General Merchandise | N/A | N/A | N/A | 43.5 | 42.2 | 47.2 |
| Food Stores | N/A | N/A | N/A | 54.8 | 54.3 | 52.2 |
| Automotive | N/A | N/A | N/A | 37.4 | 37.7 | 38.2 |
| Apparel & Accessories | N/A | N/A | N/A | 29.1 | 28.0 | 31.0 |
| Eating & Drinking Places | 27.3 | 27.4 | 29.0 | 116.8 | 116.8 | 117.5 |
| All Other Retail | 27.0 | 26.8 | 29.2 | 91.3 | 89.3 | 92.0 |

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Continued from page 7

## Wage and Salary Employment by Industry and Place of Work[a/]
(in thousands)

| INDUSTRY | District of Columbia | | | Metropolitan Area | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Dec.[b/] 1990 | Nov.[c/] 1990 | Dec.[c/] 1989 | Dec.[b/] 1990 | Nov.[c/] 1990 | Dec.[c/] 1989 |
| **Finance, Insurance & Real Estate** | **32.7** | **32.6** | **33.4** | **129.4** | **129.4** | **130.8** |
| Finance | 15.3 | 15.3 | 15.9 | 60.0 | 60.0 | 61.1 |
| Depository Institutions | 8.3 | 8.4 | 9.2 | 39.0 | 39.0 | 40.0 |
| Other Finance | 7.0 | 6.9 | 6.7 | 21.0 | 21.0 | 21.1 |
| Insurance | 7.5 | 7.5 | 7.7 | 26.9 | 26.8 | 26.8 |
| Real Estate | 9.9 | 9.8 | 9.8 | 42.5 | 42.6 | 42.9 |
| **Services** | **260.9** | **258.8** | **259.5** | **742.7** | **743.2** | **740.5** |
| Hotels & Other Lodging Places | 17.4 | 17.2 | 17.0 | 37.6 | 37.5 | 36.9 |
| Personal Services | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.6 | 22.8 | 22.7 | 22.9 |
| Business Services | 39.2 | 38.5 | 41.4 | 178.6 | 179.6 | 182.1 |
| Services to Buildings | 14.7 | 14.4 | 15.8 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Personnel Supply | 8.1 | 7.8 | 9.6 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Computer & Data Process | 6.1 | 6.0 | 6.1 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Other Business Services | 10.3 | 10.3 | 9.9 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Health Services | 37.3 | 37.1 | 37.1 | 115.5 | 115.1 | 112.3 |
| Legal Services | 30.8 | 30.6 | 30.0 | 41.6 | 41.6 | 40.8 |
| Educational Services | 32.8 | 32.8 | 30.1 | 46.8 | 46.8 | 43.9 |
| Social Services | 12.5 | 12.4 | 12.4 | 34.7 | 34.5 | 33.7 |
| Membership Organizations | 34.1 | 33.8 | 32.9 | 60.6 | 60.2 | 58.8 |
| Engineering/Management Ser | 43.4 | 43.1 | 44.3 | 142.5 | 142.6 | 146.0 |
| All Other Services | 10.2 | 10.1 | 10.7 | 62.0 | 62.6 | 63.1 |
| **Government** | **277.4** | **275.6** | **278.4** | **600.2** | **597.5** | **593.1** |
| Federal Government | 219.6 | 218.3 | 221.8 | 363.6 | 361.7 | 368.2 |
| State & Local Government | 57.8 | 57.3 | 56.6 | 236.6 | 235.8 | 224.9 |
| State Government | 53.0 | 52.5 | 51.8 | 84.4 | 83.9 | 82.8 |
| Local Government | N/A | N/A | N/A | 152.2 | 151.9 | 142.1 |
| Public Transportation | 4.8 | 4.8 | 4.8 | N/A | N/A | N/A |

a/ Detail may not add to totals due to independent rounding. Data subject to annual benchmark revisions. b/ Preliminary.
c/ Revised. d/ Data reflects benchmark revisions.

Data includes all full-and part-time employees who worked during or received pay for any part of the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employed, unpaid family workers, and private household workers are excluded.

SOURCE: Prepared by the Department of Employment Services, Labor Market Information and Research Staff in cooperation with the Virginia Employment Commission, the Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

# Holiday Hiring in Retail Trade

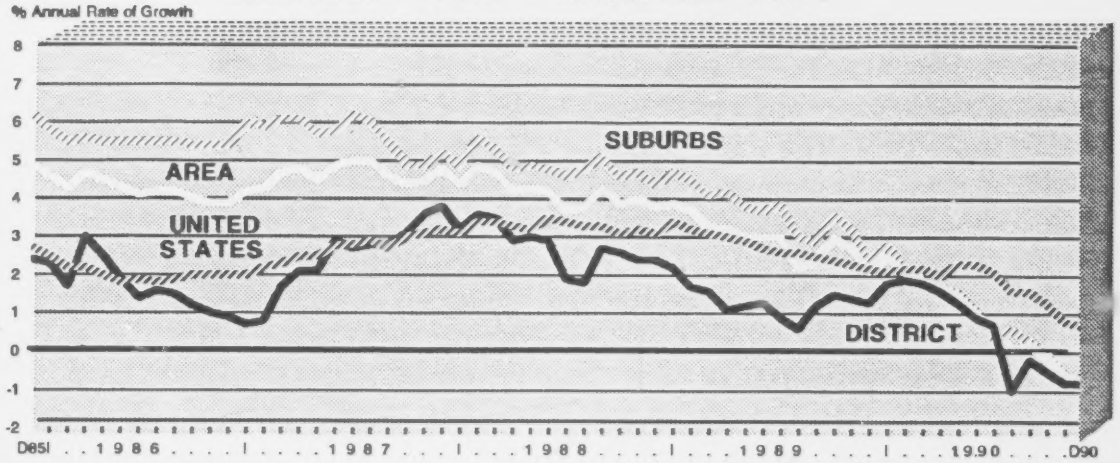
This past Fall, holiday hiring in Retail Trade was approximately half the size of hiring reported during the previous five years. In the Area last Fall, retail employers only added 10,800 additional workers, an increase of 3.0 percent. From 1985 through 1989, the Area's yearly increase for the holiday season was 6.0 percent or better. In the District, the increase was even smaller reflecting both less seasonal hiring and the closing of Garfinckel's Specialty Store. Thus, part of the recent decline in total Area employment is traceable to the loss of temporary seasonal retail jobs.

**Holiday Hiring in Retail Trade**
**The Area, The District & The Suburbs**
**1985-1990**
(Employment in thousands)

| **Area:** | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| September | 310.0 | 330.1 | 340.8 | 351.1 | 356.3 | 362.1 |
| December | 333.1 | 350.9 | 362.7 | 372.1 | 378.1 | 372.9* |
| Change | 23.1 | 20.8 | 21.9 | 21.0 | 21.8 | 10.8 |
| Percent | 7.5 | 6.3 | 6.4 | 6.0 | 6.1 | 3.0 |
| **District:** | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 |
| September | 53.0 | 54.6 | 53.7 | 54.2 | 54.5 | 53.0 |
| December | 54.4 | 56.5 | 57.5 | 57.9 | 58.2 | 54.3* |
| Change | 1.4 | 1.9 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 1.3 |
| Percent | 2.6 | 3.5 | 7.1 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 2.5 |
| **Suburbs:** | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 |
| September | 257.0 | 275.5 | 287.1 | 296.9 | 301.8 | 309.1 |
| December | 278.7 | 294.4 | 305.2 | 314.2 | 319.9 | 318.6* |
| Change | 21.7 | 18.9 | 18.1 | 17.3 | 18.1 | 9.5* |
| Percent | 8.4 | 6.9 | 6.3 | 5.8 | 6.0 | 3.1 |

*Preliminary
SOURCE: D.C. Department of Employment Services, Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work.

**Monthly Over-The-Year Rate of Job Growth**
**December 1985 - December 1991**




# Area Job Growth Rates

Over the past five years (December 1985 to December 1990), the Washington Area has created new jobs at a rate of 3.4 percent. Measured by monthly over-the-year changes, however, the rate of growth has declined from a peak of 5.0 percent in August 1987 to a net loss of seven-tenths of a percent in December 1990. **This was the third consecutive month that the Washington Area recorded an over-the-year job loss.** This year's over-the-year loss was down from a 2.1 percent increase reported in December 1989.

For the second consecutive month, the suburban economy also recorded an over-the-year job loss. The December loss represented a decline of 0.6 percent from a year earlier. This suburban loss was down significantly from the yearly growth of 2.4 percent reported in December 1989. In the District, the number of jobs declined over the year by eight-tenths of a percentage point. The loss of District jobs this year compares to a growth of 1.3 percent a year ago.

In absolute terms, job creation in the Area has declined from a peak gain during the past five years of 101,300 new jobs created between August 1986 and August 1987, to a loss of 15,000 jobs between December 1989 and this past December. Over the past year, 9,700 jobs were lost by the Suburban economy, while the District lost 5,300 jobs. **The U.S. economy in December produced a small number of new jobs compared to the net job losses in the Washington Area (a 0.7 percent increase in the U.S. economy vs. the local loss of 0.7 percent).** November marked the eleventh consecutive month in which the rate of local job creation was below the rate for all of the United States. While the Washington Area recorded over-the-year job losses in December, the losses were about the same magnitude as in November. Perhaps, the rate of local job loss has begun to stabilize or at least slow.

NOTE: It should be recognized that the monthly estimates of jobs are subject to annual benchmark revisions. These revisions can be plus or minus one percent or more, a range well within the current measurements of change.

**Profile of Job Growth Rates**
**December 1985 to December 1990**

| | |
|---|---|
| Average 60 months | 3.4% |
| High, August 1987 | 5.0% |
| Low, December 1990 | -0.7% |
| 1-year ago | 2.1% |
| Last month | -0.6% |
| Current month | -0.7% |
| **The Suburbs** | |
| Average 60 months | 4.3% |
| High, December 1985 | 6.2% |
| Low, December 1990 | -0.6% |
| 1-year ago | 2.4% |
| Last month | -0.6% |
| Current month | -0.6% |
| **The District** | |
| Average 60 months | 1.8% |
| High, December 1987 | 3.8% |
| Low, August 1990 | -1.0% |
| 1-year ago | 1.3% |
| Last month | -0.8% |
| Current month | -0.8% |

Note: Data reflects benchmark revisions for 1988-1989.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Department of Employment Services

# Unemployment Rates

## *Metropolitan Areas*

In November 1990, the Bureau of Labor Statistics ranked 269 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) by preliminary unemployment rates. The Washington Area's November jobless rate was up 0.4 percentage point to 3.8 percent. This was the thirty-ninth lowest jobless rate of the 269 areas reporting. At the same time, the rate was up ten notches from October. A year ago, the Washington Area rate was 2.4 percent.

**Comparing the Washington Area with other large metropolitan areas nationwide, the Washington Area's rate at 3.8 percent was the eighth lowest of all the major metropolitan areas. This compares to the second lowest recorded in October. It is evident that the Washington Area jobless rate is on the upswing and is climbing more rapidly than other major metropolitan areas.**

The Baltimore Area, only 35 miles north of Washington, reported a 1.9 percentage points jump in their jobless rate, up from 3.7 percent in October to 5.6 percent in November. A year ago, the Baltimore rate was 3.6 percent, up 2.0 percentage points over the year.

The Richmond-Petersburg Area, 110 miles to the south of Washington, recorded a 0.3 percentage point increase in its November jobless rate, up from 3.7 percent to 4.0 percent. A year ago, the rate was 3.5 percent.

In addition to the Washington, D.C. Area, jobless rates between 3.0 percent and 3.9 percent were reported in 9 other large metropolitan areas, the lowest being recorded in Milwaukee 3.0 percent. This was followed by Minneapolis-St. Paul—3.3 percent and Seattle, Cincinnati and Salt Lake City each 3.6 percent. San Francisco dropped from the lowest position to the six position with a rate of 3.7 percent, same as Indianapolis.

There were 11 large metropolitan areas with rates between 4.0 and 4.9 percent. There were 17 large metropolitan areas with rates between 5.0 and 5.9 percent, and 4 large metropolitan areas with rates between 6.0 and 6.9 percent. Detroit, at 7.1 percent, was the only major metropolitan area with a November rate above 7 percent.

**Of the 269 metropolitan areas for which November data are available, 68 had over-the-year increases of 1 percentage point or more in their unemployment rate, while 20 had decreases of that magnitude.** A total of 51 areas had November 1990 rates of 7 percent or higher, while an equal number had rates below 4 percent.

**Unemployment Rates in Selected Statistical Areas**

| | | November | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **MSA** | **1990*** | **1989** |
| 1. | Milwaukee, WI | 3.0 | 3.4 |
| 2. | Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN | 3.3 | 3.1 |
| 3. | Seattle, WA | 3.6 | 4.1 |
| 4. | Cincinnati, OH | 3.6 | 4.6 |
| 5. | Salt Lake City, UT | 3.6 | 3.6 |
| 6. | San Francisco, CA | 3.7 | 2.8 |
| 7. | Indianapolis, IN | 3.7 | 3.9 |
| **8.** | **Washington, D.C.** | **3.8** | **2.4** |
| 9. | Denver, CO | 3.9 | 4.5 |
| 10. | Columbus, OH | 3.9 | 5.2 |
| 11. | Richmond-Petersburg, VA | 4.0 | 3.5 |
| 12. | Nashville, TN | 4.0 | 3.7 |
| 13. | Portland, OR | 4.1 | 4.2 |
| 14. | Phoenix, AR | 4.2 | 3.6 |
| 15. | Buffalo, NY | 4.3 | 5.0 |
| 16. | Cleveland, OH | 4.4 | 5.3 |
| 17. | Oakland, CA | 4.6 | 3.5 |
| 18. | Louisville, KY | 4.6 | 4.9 |
| 19. | Gary, IN | 4.8 | 5.6 |
| 20. | Memphis, TN | 4.9 | 4.5 |
| 21. | Kansas City, MO | 4.9 | 4.5 |
| 22. | Pittsburgh, PA | 5.1 | 4.8 |
| 23. | Dayton, OH | 5.1 | 5.6 |
| 24. | Philadelphia, PA | 5.1 | 4.1 |
| 25. | Birmingham, AL | 5.1 | 5.2 |
| 26. | Jackson, MS | 5.2 | 4.8 |
| 27. | Newark, NJ | 5.3 | 4.8 |
| 28. | Atlanta, GA | 5.3 | 5.4 |
| 29. | San Diego, CA | 5.4 | 3.5 |
| 30. | New Orleans, LA | 5.4 | 6.2 |
| 31. | Boston, MA | 5.5 | 3.4 |
| 32. | Baltimore, MD | 5.6 | 3.6 |
| 33. | Houston, TX | 5.7 | 5.9 |
| 34. | Chicago, IL | 5.7 | 5.9 |
| 35. | Sacramento, CA | 5.8 | 4.2 |
| 36. | Dallas, TX | 5.8 | 5.6 |
| 37. | Los Angeles, CA | 5.8 | 5.2 |
| 38. | Oklahoma City, OK | 5.9 | 4.0 |
| 39. | Montgomery, AL | 6.0 | 5.8 |
| 40. | St. Louis, MO | 6.2 | 5.6 |
| 41. | New York, NY | 6.7 | 5.9 |
| 42. | Miami, FL | 6.8 | 6.4 |
| 43. | Detroit, MI | 7.1 | 6.4 |

*Preliminary unemployment rates.

# Cities

In comparison with the 25 selected central cities, the District of Columbia (with a November preliminary rate of 6.9 percent) had the fourteenth lowest jobless rate. This was two notches below the October position when it was twelfth. In November, the average unemployment rate of the 26 cities was 6.7 percent down from the 7.0 percent reported in October, but up from the 6.6 percent posted in November 1989.

Only seven cities reported jobless rates at or below 6 percent, with the lowest posted in Salt Lake City at 3.6 percent, followed by Columbus and Milwaukee each at 4.0 percent. San Francisco's rate was at 4.3 percent in November.

Baltimore's rate at 8.2 percent was up 0.7 percentage point from October. Baltimore held the twenty-first position among the 26 selected cities. Baltimore's November 1990 rate was 2.4 percentage points higher than the November 1989 rate of 5.8 percent.

For the time being, Gary seems to have fallen out of the double digit column. This is the third consecutive month that Gary was not a double digiter. Gary's November jobless rate at 8.3 was 1.2 percentage points lower than October and 1.4 percentage points lower than November a year ago.

This was the third consecutive month that Newark was in the double digit column. Newark held the twenty-fifth position, same as in October. The November rate at 10 percentage was 0.9 percentage point lower than in October and 0.5 percentage point higher than the 9.5 percent recorded in November 1989.

Detroit's jobless rate fell 0.3 percentage point over the month to 10.7 percent, the highest among the twenty-six selected cities. The 10.7 percent is 0.8 percent higher than the 9.9 percent recorded a year ago.

Of the 26 selected central cities, thirteen reported decreases in joblessness and twelve reported increases in joblessness over the year. The largest decreases were reported in Ohio, the cities of Cincinnati and Columbus, down by 1.6 and 1.5 percentage points, respectively. New Orleans and Cleveland each reported declines in joblessness of 1.4 percentage points. The largest increase in joblessness was reported by our neighbor Baltimore, 2.4 percentage points. **The District of Columbia and Boston followed each with 2.2 percentage points increases.** The jobless rate in Pittsburgh was unchanged over the year at 4.5 percent.

# States

**When the District of Columbia (with a November preliminary unemployment rate of 6.9 percent) was ranked with the 50 States, the District had the fourth highest jobless rate in the Country.** This was the same position held in November. Virginia's rate at 4.5 percent was up 0.3 percentage point from October. Maryland's rate at 5.3 percent was up 0.8 percentage point after remaining unchanged during October and September. Virginia and Maryland have two of the twenty-one lowest jobless rates among the 51 jurisdictions. This month, Maryland and Virginia ranked thirty-first and forty-first, respectively, in the standings. A year ago, Maryland's rate was 3.2 percent, while Virginia's rate was 4.2 percent last year.

**Eleven states and the District of Columbia reported November 1989-90 increases in their unemployment rate of 1 percentage point or more.** These large increases were concentrated in the New England and neighboring Atlantic Coast states. Delaware reported the largest jump (3.4 points) followed by New Hampshire (2.9 points), Massachusetts (2.6 points) and Vermont (2.4 points). Only two states reported an unemployment rate decline of 1 percentage point or more, Nebraska (1.2 points) and North Dakota (1.0 point).

Unemployment rates in November were 7 percent or higher in three states—West Virginia (8.7 percent), Mississippi (7.4 percent) and Michigan (7.2 percent). Six states had unemployment rates below 4 percent. Nebraska (1.6 percent), Hawaii (2.7 percent), North Dakota (3.2 percent), and South Dakota (3.4 percent) had the lowest rates.

# Unemployment rates by state, November 1990

## Unemployment Rates in Selected Cities

| | November | |
|---|---|---|
| | 1990* | 1989 |
| 1. Salt Lake City, UT | 3.6 | 3.8 |
| 2. Columbus, OH | 4.0 | 5.5 |
| 3. Milwaukee, WI | 4.0 | 4.5 |
| 4. San Francisco, CA | 4.3 | 3.5 |
| 5. Pittsburgh, PA | 4.5 | 4.5 |
| 6. Cincinnati, OH | 4.5 | 6.1 |
| 7. New Orleans, LA | 5.5 | 6.9 |
| 8. Boston, MA | 6.1 | 3.9 |
| 9. Buffalo, NY | 6.1 | 7.1 |
| 10. Houston, TX | 6.2 | 6.4 |
| 11. Los Angeles, CA | 6.5 | 5.8 |
| 12. Dallas, TX | 6.7 | 6.5 |
| 13. Philadelphia, PA | 6.8 | 5.4 |
| **14. District of Columbia** | **6.9** | **4.7** |
| 15. Cleveland, OH | 6.9 | 8.3 |
| 16. Birmingham, AL | 6.9 | 7.1 |
| 17. Dayton, OH | 7.2 | 8.3 |
| 18. New York, NY | 7.4 | 6.5 |
| 19. Chicago, IL | 7.4 | 8.0 |
| 20. Atlanta, GA | 7.4 | 7.5 |
| 21. Baltimore, MD | 8.2 | 5.8 |
| 22. Gary, IN | 8.3 | 9.7 |
| 23. St. Louis, MO | 8.4 | 8.2 |
| 24. Miami, FL | 8.5 | 7.9 |
| 25. Newark, NJ | 10.0 | 9.5 |
| 26. Detroit, MI | 10.7 | 9.9 |

*Preliminary unemployment rates.

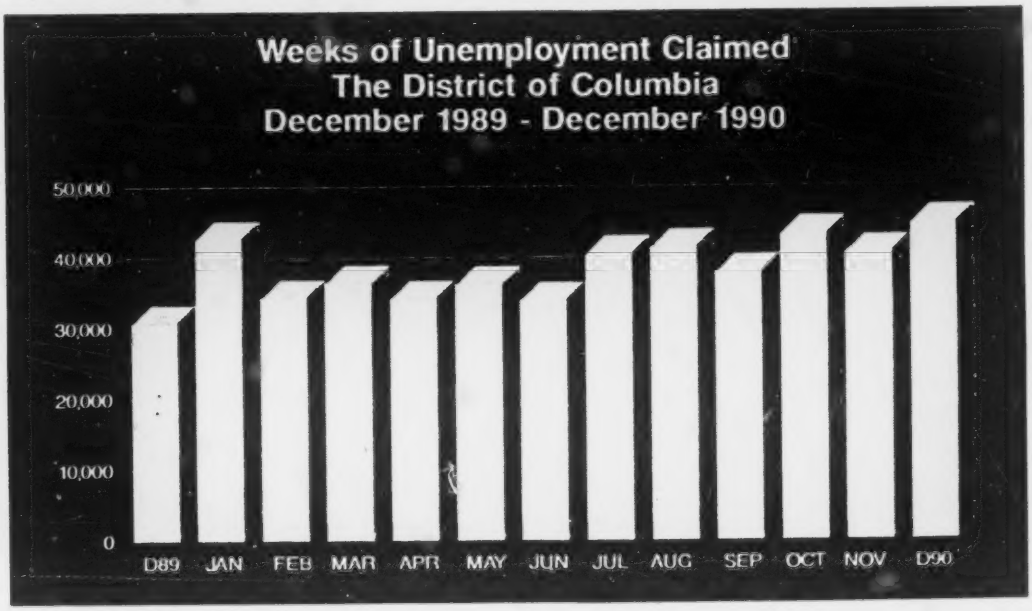
# Unemployment Insurance Activities December 1990

There were 4,010 initial claims in December 1990 for unemployment compensation benefits from former workers in the District of Columbia. This was 4 percent above the previous month. It also represents the largest number of claims filed in any month of the fourth quarter, and the second largest of any month this year. The claims-load and trend are a reflection of the continued economic downturn. The monthly movement in weeks of joblessness claimed and weeks actually compensated increased 10 and 8 percent, respectively. Benefit outlay followed suit, climbing 8 percent over the month. There was virtually no change in the average weekly benefit amount. The total benefit outlay for the month was $9.4 million—the highest of any month this year.

Compared to December of last year, all measures for the total program increased. This was somewhat expected based on the status of the economy this year compared to last. The total outlay in December 1989 was $6.0 million.

The quarter-to-quarter changes between 1989 and 1990 were the largest of any of the years shown in the accompanying chart. This represents another view of the status of the economy at a point in the year. Viewed from another perspective, the 1986-1990 years show "peaks" at each end, with a trough between. Initial claims rose an average of nearly 3 percent a year between 1986 and 1990, for a total of 13.5 percent. Weeks compensated rose slightly above claims to 16 percent. Total benefit outlay rose nearly 50 percent in this period.

The annual data show the same "peak/trough" trend noted in the quarterly statistics. Intial claims were at approximately the same level in the anchor years, with 1990 being nearly one percent below 1986. Weeks compensated were down less than a half percent in the terminal year. The 1989-90 change generally eclipsed all other years as was the case in the quarterly comparisons, but the magnitude was not as great. As expected, total benefit outlay in 1990 was the highest of any year observed.



## Selected Unemployment Insurance Benefit Statistics
## (Regular Programs)
## District of Columbia
## December 1990

| | Dec. 1990 | Nov. 1990 | Dec. 1989 | % Change From Nov. 1990 | % Change From Dec. 1989 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **State UI Program**[a/] | | | | | |
| Initial Claims Taken | 3,920 | 3,756 | 3,632 | +4.4 | +7.9 |
| Weeks of Unemployment Claimed | 42,185 | 37,990 | 28,590 | +11.0 | +47.6 |
| Weeks of Unemployment Compensated | 41,881 | 38,575 | 27,821 | +8.6 | +50.5 |
| Total Benefits Paid | $8,831,327 | $8,098,866 | $5,469,356 | +9.0 | +61.5 |
| Average Weekly Benefit Payment | $210.87 | $209.95 | $196.59 | +0.4 | +7.3 |
| Number of First Payments | 2,330 | 2,123 | 1,710 | +9.8 | +36.3 |
| Number of Final Payments | 1,023 | 904 | 799 | +13.2 | +28.0 |
| Total Beneficiaries | 11,986 | 10,871 | 8,448 | +10.3 | +41.9 |
| **Federal Program**[b/] | | | | | |
| Initial Claims Taken | 51 | 72 | 51 | -30.6 | +0.0 |
| Weeks of Unemployment Claimed | 2,091 | 2,100 | 1,827 | -0.4 | +14.4 |
| Weeks of Unemployment Compensated | 2,135 | 2,261 | 1,999 | -5.6 | +6.8 |
| Total Benefits Paid | $470,857 | $499,568 | $448,990 | -5.7 | +4.9 |
| Average Weekly Benefit Payment | $220.54 | $220.95 | $224.61 | -0.2 | -1.8 |
| Number of First Payments | 99 | 121 | 70 | -18.2 | +41.4 |
| Number of Final Payments | 50 | 48 | 51 | +4.2 | -2.0 |
| Total Beneficiaries | 565 | 557 | 568 | +1.4 | -0.5 |
| **Ex-Servicepersons Program**[c/] | | | | | |
| Initial Claims Taken | 35 | 20 | 24 | +75.0 | +45.8 |
| Weeks of Unemployment Claimed | 339 | 349 | 268 | -2.9 | +26.5 |
| Weeks of Unemployment Compensated | 279 | 295 | 231 | -5.4 | +20.8 |
| Total Benefits Paid | $58,991 | $62,417 | $49,843 | -5.5 | +18.4 |
| Average Weekly Benefit Payment | $211.44 | $211.58 | $215.77 | -0.1 | -2.0 |
| Number of First Payments | 21 | 29 | 20 | -27.6 | +5.0 |
| Number of Final Payments | 12 | 17 | 8 | -29.4 | +50.0 |
| Total Beneficiaries | 82 | 81 | 67 | +1.2 | +22.4 |
| **Total—All Programs** | | | | | |
| Initial Claims Taken | 4,006 | 3,848 | 3,707 | +4.1 | +8.1 |
| Weeks of Unemployment Claimed | 44,615 | 40,439 | 30,685 | +10.3 | +45.4 |
| Weeks of Unemployment Compensated | 44,295 | 41,131 | 30,051 | +7.7 | +47.4 |
| Total Benefits Paid | $9,361,175 | $8,660,851 | $5,968,189 | +8.1 | +56.9 |
| Average Weekly Benefit Payment | $211.34 | $210.57 | $198.60 | +0.4 | +6.4 |
| Number of First Payments | 2,450 | 1,767 | 1,800 | +38.7 | +36.1 |
| Number of Final Payments | 1,085 | 969 | 858 | +12.0 | +26.5 |
| Total Beneficiaries | 12,633 | 11,509 | 9,083 | +9.8 | +39.1 |

a/ Includes joint claims with Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE), and/or Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicepersons (UCX).

b/ Includes joint claims with Unemployment Compensation of Ex-Serviceperson (UCX).

c/ No joint claims.

## Selected Unemployment Insurance Benefit Activities
## Quarterly and Annual Summaries
## District of Columbia
## 1986-1990

| Fourth Quarter | | | | | | Percent Change | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1986-87 | 1987-88 | 1988-89 | 1988-90 | 1986-90 |
| Initial Claims | 10,389 | 9,381 | 9,243 | 9,244 | 11,788 | -10.0 | -1.5 | — | +27.5 | +13.5 |
| Weeks Compensated | 111,329 | 91,303 | 91,453 | 92,772 | 129,270 | -17.9 | +0.2 | +1.4 | +39.3 | -16.1 |
| Total Benefit Outlay | $18,434,367 | $16,073,007 | $17,031,598 | $18,483,167 | $27,317,978 | -12.8 | +6.0 | +8.5 | +47.8 | +48.2 |
| Avg. Wkly. Benefits | $165.68 | $176.04 | $186.23 | $199.23 | $211.32 | +6.3 | +5.8 | +6.9 | +6.1 | +27.5 |
| **Year** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Initial Claims | 41,565 | 39,496 | 37,167 | 36,024 | 41,197 | -7.3 | -3.5 | -3.1 | +14.4 | -0.9 |
| Weeks Compensated | 457,984 | 428,996 | 397,341 | 404,014 | 459,611 | -6.3 | -7.4 | +1.7 | +13.8 | +0.4 |
| Total Benefit Outlay | $74,135,660 | $74,947,954 | $73,240,057 | $79,841,722 | $95,410,831 | +1.1 | -2.3 | +9.0 | +19.5 | +28.7 |
| Avg. Wkly. Benefits | $161.87 | $174.71 | $184.33 | $197.62 | $207.59 | +7.9 | +5.5 | +7.2 | +5.0 | +28.2 |

### D.C. Minimum Wage For Workers Dry Cleaning Occupation Increases

On December 11, 1990, the District's Wage-Hour Board increased the minimum wage for laundry and Dry Cleaning Workers, from $3.70 per hour to $5.45 per hour, except where the employer furnishes health benefits. If the employer furnishes health benefits which cost 50 cents or more per hour the rate is $4.95 per hour. The increase became effective February 10, 1991.

The new rate will apply to workers in the Standard Industrial Classifications; (721) laundry, cleaning, and garment services, and (725) shoe repair, shoe shine parlors, and hat cleaning shops. The new rate is applicable to all employees in the occupation without regard to the primary business of the employer.

For more information and copies of the wage order call the Department's Office of Wage-Hour, (202) 576-6942.

# Hours and Earnings in Manufacturing

Total Manufacturing Average Weekly Earnings in the Metropolitan Area for December 1990 increased $1.54. Average Weekly Hours reported a slight decrease of .4 hour. Average Hourly Earnings increased 17 cents.

In the Durable Goods Sector, Other Durable Goods showed an increase in Weekly Hours of 1.1 hours due to a longer scheduled workweek.

In the Non-Durable Goods Sector, Printing and Publishing reported less overtime worked which caused Weekly Earnings to drop $5.84 and Weekly Hours to drop 1.6 hours. On the other hand, an increase in the proportion of higher paid employees caused Hourly Earnings to rise 15 cents an hour. Other Non-Durable Goods reported less overtime worked thus causing Weekly Hours to drop 1.6 hours.

**Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing**
**Washington Metropolitan Area**
**December 1990**

| | Average Weekly Earnings | | | Average Weekly Hours | | | Average Hourly Earnings | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Dec. 1990 | Nov. 1990 | Dec. 1989 | Dec. 1990 | Nov. 1990 | Dec. 1989 | Dec. 1990 | Nov. 1990 | Dec. 1989 |
| **Total Manufacturing** | 503.10 | 501.56 | 473.02 | 39.0 | 39.4 | 38.9 | 12.90 | 12.73 | 12.16 |
| **Durable Goods** | 535.86 | 527.09 | 483.75 | 42.8 | 42.1 | 41.1 | 12.52 | 12.52 | 11.77 |
| Stone Clay & Glass Products | 533.56 | 534.89 | 434.84 | 44.5 | 45.1 | 40.3 | 11.99 | 11.86 | 10.79 |
| Electric Machinery, Equipment & Supplies | 497.54 | 493.20 | 443.31 | 41.6 | 41.1 | 41.2 | 11.96 | 12.00 | 10.76 |
| Other Durable Goods | 550.41 | 536.71 | 506.76 | 42.9 | 41.8 | 41.2 | 12 83 | 12.84 | 12.30 |
| **Non-Durable Goods** | 476.03 | 481.92 | 463.75 | 35.9 | 37.3 | 37.1 | 13.26 | 12.92 | 12.50 |
| Food & Kindred Products | 487.72 | 489.20 | 433.88 | 42.3 | 42.8 | 40.1 | 11.53 | 11.43 | 10.82 |
| Printing & Publishing | 499.63 | 505.47 | 487.42 | 33.6 | 35.2 | 35.5 | 14.87 | 14.36 | 13.73 |
| Other Non-Durable Goods | 388.28 | 400.58 | 387.92 | 40.7 | 42.3 | 41.4 | 9.54 | 9.47 | 9.37 |

| Total Production Workers | Dec. 1990 | Nov. 1990 | Dec. 1989 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 38,700 | 38,900 | 41,600 |

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**Government of the District of Columbia**
**Sharon Pratt Dixon, Mayor**

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